

Message Text

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43

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 SS-14 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-02 INR-09 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 SPM-01 L-03 H-02 NIC-01 AF-10 EA-11 EUR-25

NEA-10 CG-00 COA-02 INT-08 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12

PRS-01 SCEM-02 RSR-01 /223 W
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R 241536 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6915

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1471

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, EFIS, ECLA, EC

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ REASSERTS GOE' S LOS POSITION
OF 200 MILES

REF: QUITO 1460

SUMMARY

PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ REITERATED ECUADOR' S CLAIM TO A 200 MILE
TERRITORIAL SEA AT THE OPENING SESSION OF ECLA.

END SUMMARY

1. IN HIS REMARKS TO THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE 15 TH SESSION
OF ECLA, PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA REASSERTED ECUADOR' S LOS POSITION
AS FOLLOWS:

2. " THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR RESOLUTELY AND
IRREVOCABLY DEFENDS THE RIGHT TO COMPLETE SOVEREIGNTY AND
EXCLUSIVE
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JURISDICTION OVER THE SEAS FOR A DISTANCE OF 200 MILES FROM THE SHORE, AND IT REJECTS ALL MEASURES AIMED AT REDUCING SUCH RIGHTS, SINCE THE RESOURCES IN THAT ZONE, TOGETHER WITH OUR OTHER NATIONAL RESOURCES, ARE ESSENTIAL FOR OUR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT. THE DEFENCE OF SUCH RESOURCES AND THEIR RATIONAL UTILIZATION ARE AMONG THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES OF OUR REVOLUTION.

" I THEREFORE FEEL THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL, IN APPRAISING THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, THAT THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES SHOULD STAND FIRMLY SHOULDER TO SHOULDER, REJECTING ALL ATTEMPTS AT COERCION, IN ORDER TO ENSURE, AS ADVOCATED BY THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA, THEIR FULL DOMINION OVER THEIR NATIONAL RESOURCES ."

3. COMMENT: PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ' STATEMENT ON LOS IS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS THE ONE HE MADE ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT (SEE QUITO A-33 .) THE MAIN DIFFERENCE IN THE TWO STATEMENTS IS THAT THE ECLA ONE IS LESS ANTI- US AND LESS PUGNACIOUS ALTHOUGH THE BASIC POSITION IS THE SAME.

4. THE CONTINUED EMPHASIS ON THE NATURAL RESOURCE ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM IS SIGNIFICANT. IN THIS CONNECTION WE DO NOT RECALL THE GOE USING THE TERM " EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION" BEFORE.

5. THE ABSENCE OF ANY REFERENCE TO FREE PASSAGE (THE USUAL FORMULATION IN OTHER OFFICIAL STATEMENTS HAS BEEN THAT THE ECUADOREAN- CLAIMED SEA IS OPEN TO " INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS" - (SEE QUITO 794), SUGGESTS THAT THE GOE HAS NOT YET ARRIVED AT A FINAL LOS POSITION AND THAT THE ISSUES INVOLVED ARE COMPLETE SOVEREIGNTY, FREE PASSAGE, AND NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION.
BURNS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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